

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 9, 21, 33, 36, and 46, as set forth below.

1           1.       (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2       a mounting portion to couple with a first card connector on a circuit board, the mounting  
3           portion including a first communication path to route at least one signal line from  
4           the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector on the  
5           mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for coupling  
6           with a peripheral card; and  
7       a routing portion to couple with a second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
8           portion including a communication path, the communication path of the routing  
9           portion to route at least one signal line from the second card connector on the  
10          circuit board to the mounting portion, a second communication path of the  
11          mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of the second card connector  
12          on the circuit board to a second card connector on the mounting portion, the  
13          second card connector on the mounting portion for coupling with a peripheral  
14          card;  
15       wherein the first and second card connectors on the circuit board are each alternatively  
16       able to receive a peripheral card.

1           2.       (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the mounting portion and the routing  
2       portion comprising a single integrated component.

1           3.       (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at  
2       least one other routing portion to couple with a third card connector on the circuit board,  
3       the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to route at least one  
4       signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a  
5       third communication path of the mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of  
6       the third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector on the mounting  
7       portion.

1           4.       (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, the routing portion and the at least  
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           5.       (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion  
2 comprising:  
3 a first riser for coupling with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser for coupling with the mounting  
5 portion.

1           6.       (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser and the second riser  
2 comprising a single part.

1           7.       (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser oriented substantially  
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the  
3 circuit board.

1           8.       (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising a  
2 flexible cable.

1           9.       (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2   a circuit board;  
3   a processor disposed on the circuit board;  
4   a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;  
5   a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
6       one signal line, the first card connector on the circuit board alternatively able to  
7       receive a peripheral card;  
8   a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at  
9       least one signal line, the second card connector on the circuit board alternatively  
10      able to receive a peripheral card;  
11   a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
12      portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
13      of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
14      on the mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for  
15      coupling with a peripheral card; and  
16   a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
17      portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
18      the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
19      communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
20      of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
21      disposed on the mounting portion, the second card connector on the mounting  
22      portion for coupling with a peripheral card.

1           10.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a peripheral card  
2   secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card  
3   connector on the mounting portion.

1           11.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, the mounting portion to orient the  
2   peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           12.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, each of the at least one signal line of  
2 the first card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second  
3 card connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

1           13.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the mounting portion and the routing  
2 portion comprising a single integrated component.

1           14.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
3 one signal line; and  
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1           15.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, the routing portion and the at least  
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           16.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion  
2 comprising:  
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
5 portion.

1           17.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser and the second riser  
2 comprising a single part.

1           18.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser oriented substantially  
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the  
3 circuit board.

1           19.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising a  
2 flexible cable.

1           20.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the first card connector on the circuit  
2 board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one  
3 intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           21.     (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2     a chassis;  
3     a circuit board disposed in the chassis;  
4     a processor disposed on the circuit board;  
5     a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;  
6     a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
7         one signal line, the first card connector on the circuit board alternatively able to  
8         receive a peripheral card;  
9     a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at  
10         least one signal line, the second card connector on the circuit board alternatively  
11         able to receive a peripheral card;  
12     a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
13         portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
14         of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
15         on the mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for  
16         coupling with a peripheral card; and  
17     a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
18         portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
19         the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
20         communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
21         of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
22         disposed on the mounting portion, the second card connector on the mounting  
23         portion for coupling with a peripheral card.

1           22.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a peripheral card  
2     secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card  
3     connector on the mounting portion.

1           23.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, the mounting portion to orient the  
2     peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           24.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, each of the at least one signal line  
2 of the first card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the  
3 second card connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT#  
4 line.

1           25.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the mounting portion and the  
2 routing portion comprising a single integrated component.

1           26.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least  
3 one signal line; and  
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1           27.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, the routing portion and the at least  
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           28.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion  
2 comprising:  
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
5 portion.

1           29.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser and the second riser  
2 comprising a single part.

1           30.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser oriented substantially  
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the  
3 circuit board.

1           31.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising a  
2 flexible cable.

1           32.     (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the first card connector on the  
2 circuit board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least  
3 one intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           33.     (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2 first routing means to couple with a first card connector on a circuit board, the first  
3 routing means including a first communication means for routing at least one  
4 signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card  
5 connector disposed on the first routing means, the first card connector on the first  
6 routing means for coupling with a peripheral card; and  
7 second routing means to couple with a second card connector on the circuit board, the  
8 second routing means including a communication means, the communication  
9 means of the second routing means for routing at least one signal line from the  
10 second card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a second  
11 communication means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal  
12 line of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
13 disposed on the first routing means, the second card connector on the first routing  
14 means for coupling with a peripheral card;  
15 wherein the first and second card connectors on the circuit board are each alternatively  
16 able to receive a peripheral card.



1           34.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a  
2   third routing means to couple with a third card connector on the circuit board, the third  
3   routing means including a communication means for routing at least one signal line from  
4   the third card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a third  
5   communication means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the  
6   third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector disposed on the first  
7   routing means.

1           35.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, each of the first and  
2   second communication means of the first routing means and the communication means of  
3   the second routing means to route one of an electrical signal and an optical signal.

1           36.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
2   securing a mounting structure to a first card connector on a circuit board, the first card  
3   connector on the circuit board alternatively able to receive a peripheral card;  
4   securing a routing structure to a second card connector on the circuit board, the second  
5   card connector on the circuit board alternatively able to receive a peripheral card;  
6   routing at least one signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board through a  
7   first communication path of the mounting structure to a first card connector on the  
8   mounting structure, the first card connector on the mounting structure for  
9   coupling with a peripheral card;  
10   routing at least one signal line from the second card connector on the circuit board  
11   through a communication path of the routing structure to the mounting structure;  
12   and  
13   routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board second card connector through a  
14   second communication path of the mounting structure to a second card connector  
15   on the mounting structure, the second card connector on the mounting structure  
16   for coupling with a peripheral card.

1           37.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
2     securing a second routing structure in a third card connector on the circuit board;  
3     routing at least one signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board through  
4           a communication path of the second routing structure to the mounting structure;  
5           and  
6     routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board third card connector through a third  
7           communication path of the mounting structure to a third card connector on the  
8           mounting structure.

1           38.     (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:  
2     routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the first card connector on the circuit  
3           board to the first card connector on the mounting structure; and  
4     routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the second card connector on the  
5           circuit board to the second card connector on the mounting structure.

1           39.     (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising securing a  
2     peripheral card in one of the first card connector on the mounting structure and the  
3     second card connector on the mounting structure.

1           40.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first  
2     and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of  
3     the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           41.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first  
2     and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of  
3     the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1           42.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first  
2     and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of  
3     the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           43.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first  
2     and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of  
3     the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1           44.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the  
2     first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication  
3     path of the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           45.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the  
2     first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication  
3     path of the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1           46.    (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
2    a circuit board;  
3    a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line  
4           extending therefrom, the first card connector on the circuit board alternatively  
5           able to receive a peripheral card;  
6    a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line  
7           extending therefrom, the second card connector on the circuit board alternatively  
8           able to receive a peripheral card;  
9    a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting  
10           portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line  
11           of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed  
12           on the mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for  
13           coupling with a peripheral card; and  
14    a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing  
15           portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of  
16           the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second  
17           communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line  
18           of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector  
19           disposed on the mounting portion, the second card connector on the mounting  
20           portion for coupling with a peripheral card.

1           47.    (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a  
2    peripheral card secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the  
3    second card connector on the mounting portion.

1           48.    (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, the mounting portion to  
2    orient the peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1           49.    (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the mounting portion  
2    and the routing portion comprising a single integrated component.

1           50.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:  
2   a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line  
3       extending therefrom; and  
4   at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,  
5       the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple  
6       the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the  
7       mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple  
8       the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a  
9       third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1           51.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, the routing portion and  
2   the at least one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1           52.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion  
2   comprising:  
3   a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and  
4   a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting  
5       portion.

1           53.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser and the  
2   second riser comprising a single part.

1           54.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser oriented  
2   substantially transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially  
3   parallel to the circuit board.

1           55.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion  
2   comprising a flexible cable.

1           56.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the first card connector  
2     on the circuit board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at  
3     least one intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1           57.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the  
2     first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication  
3     path of the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1           58.     (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the  
2     first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication  
3     path of the routing portion comprises an optical path.